

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A blank for use in a CAD/CAM system for the manufacture of a dental restoration comprising:
  - 5 a prefabricated preshaped block comprising a particulate filler material, a fibrous material, and a polymeric matrix material;  
wherein the block is cured to a hardness for use in a dental restoration; and  
wherein the particulate-filled composite material is present in amount of up to about 30%; and
  - 10 wherein the fibrous material is present in an amount in the range of about 20% to about 30%.
2. The blank of claim 1 wherein the particulate filler comprises particles in the range of 0.001 to about 0.07. *unib*
- 15 3. The blank of claim 1 wherein the particulate filler comprises particles in the range from about 0.5 to about 5 microns.
4. The blank of claim 1 wherein the particulate filler comprises silica,
  - 20 silicate glass, quartz, barium silicate, strontium silicate, barium borosilicate, barium sulfate, barium molybdate, barium methacrylate, barium yttrium alkoxy ( $\text{Ba}_2\text{Y}(\text{OR})_x$ ), strontium borosilicate, borosilicate, lithium silicate, amorphous silica, ammoniated or deammoniated calcium phosphate, alumina, zirconia, tin oxide, tantalum oxide, niobium oxide, titania or a mixture thereof.
- 25 5. The blank of claim 1 wherein the particulate filler comprises a mixture of from about 5 to about 20% by weight of borosilicate glass and from about 80 to about 95% by weight of barium borosilicate.
- 30 6. The blank of claim 1 wherein the polymeric matrix material

comprises polyamides, polyesters, polyolefins, polyimides, polyarylates, polyurethanes, vinyl esters, epoxy-based materials, styrenes, styrene acrylonitriles, ABS polymers, polysulfones, polyacetals, polycarbonates, polyphenylene sulfides, polyacrylates, polymethacrylates or a mixture thereof.

5

7. The blank of claim 1 wherein the fibrous material comprises glass, carbon, graphite, polyaramid, polyester, polyamide or a mixture thereof.

8. A dental restoration manufactured from the blank of claim 1.

10

15

20

25

30

10029782-103601